

REMARKS

Claims 6 and 11-15 are pending in this application. Non-elected claims 9 and 12-14 have been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner. By this Amendment, claims 12-14 are amended and claim 9 is canceled. Support for the amendments to the claims may be found, for example, in the claims as originally filed. No new matter is added. In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

I. Interviews

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Examiner Zimmer at the interviews held on December 1, 2010, December 3, 2010 and December 13, 2010, are appreciated. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that the Examiner would rejoin withdrawn claims 12-14 if claim 14 is amended to incorporate all features of claim 9, and claims 12 and 13 are amended to depend from claim 14. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicant's record of the interview.

II. Double Patenting

The Office Action provisionally rejects claim 6, 11 and 15 on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 6-11 of copending Application No. 10/593,629. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claims 6, 11 and 15 are allowable if the obviousness-type double patenting rejection is overcome.

Applicant is simultaneously filing herewith a Terminal Disclaimer over the cited reference, thus obviating the rejection of claims 6, 11 and 15. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the double patenting rejection are respectfully requested.

III. Rejoinder

Rejoinder of withdrawn claims 12-14 is respectfully requested. Claim 14 requires all the features of claim 6 and, thus, should be rejoined upon allowance of claim 6. Because claim 6 is believed to be allowable for at least the reasons discussed above, withdrawal of the restriction requirement and rejoinder, examination, and allowance of claim 14 and its dependent claims are respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Terminal Disclaimer

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